

AGENDA ITEM IV
PROPOSED DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAM

LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY

B.S. in Health Information Administration
(CIP Code 51.0607)

STAFF COMMENT

Academic Affairs Policies and Procedures 2.12 - Delivery of Academic Programs Through Distance Learning Technologies requires state colleges and universities that propose to offer more than 50% of an existing degree program through distance learning technologies to first seek Board of Regents' approval before submitting a request for authorization through the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

The policy states that the following planning and quality issues must be satisfactorily addressed:

Planning

1. Appropriateness to stated role, scope, and mission;
2. Unnecessary program duplication;
3. Consistency with the desegregation Settlement Agreement; and
4. Funding provisions of Academic Affairs Policy 2.4 - Letters of Intent.

Quality

1. Adequacy of necessary infrastructures and resources;
2. Consistent of program design with that offered on campus; and
3. Appropriateness of the curricular format.

STAFF ANALYSIS

Planning Issues

The B.S. program in Health Information Administration program is appropriate to the role, scope, and mission of the University. The program is the only one of its kind in north Louisiana and was not identified by the Board of Regents as unnecessarily duplicated in the 1996 Review of Duplicated Programs. The Desegregation Settlement Agreement does not make any provisions for the development of any similar and/or related program at the state's predominantly black institutions of higher education. No additional state funding will be required to offer the program electronically.

Quality Issues

Faculty will be trained to use new modes of delivery through the University's Centers of Educational Excellence and Instructional Technology/Distance Learning and through workshops and seminars/conferences offered by the American Health Information Management Association's Assembly on Education and Assembly on Syllabus. Program development has been afforded through two Board of Regents' Distance Education Grants (\$23,333 in 1998-99 and \$22,578 in 1999-2000). The proposed program will be offered via compressed video and the Internet. Adequate technology is available on campus to offer the program. The content and design of the curriculum via distance learning will replicate that which is already offered on campus.

STAFF SUMMARY

Louisiana Tech University has successfully addressed requirements of Academic Affairs Policy 2.13. The staff, therefore, recommends approval of this request.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends approval for the request from Louisiana Tech University to offer the B.S. program in Health Information Administration (CIP Code 51.0607) through distance learning technologies.